

Southern Women: Histories and Identities

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From Brand: Univ of Missouri Pr : Southern Women: Histories and Identities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Southern Women: Histories and Identities:

The romance of the South has long been painted with the broad brush of partial truths and myths creating images of white-gloved ladies and "old black mammies". Now, the complex and constantly evolving identities of southern women emerge from the shadows of history in a book that challenges these traditional assumptions. Gathering from among the most prominent names in the field, including Jacquelyn Dowd Hall and Darlene Clark Hine, "Southern Women" investigates the place of women from the perspectives of race, class and gender. The subjects covered span from the colonial period to the mid-20th century, and the writers re-examine traditional notions of southern women's roles in politics and the military. Black and mulatto women are studied with fresh insight, and the suffrage debate is given new dimensions. "Southern Women" signals the evolving vitality of the burgeoning field of southern women's history. The book will be of interest to students of women's history, southern history, African-American studies, sociology, anthropology and literature.

From Library JournalThis volume presents selected essays from the 1988 Southern Conference on Women's History that attempt to define Southern women's sense of historical identity. The essays examine the historiography of

Southern women along racial, gender, and class lines; their participation in and legal rights dating from the Revolutionary era; the issue of mulattoes and Southern society; the mythology of mammies; race and class in the context of suffrage issues; and the black woman's fear of rape and sexual powerlessness. The volume wisely does not purport to be a comprehensive guide to Southern women's history. Rather, it touches on more or less important issues by which Southern women, both white and black, defined themselves. Essayists like Jacquelyn Dowd Hall and Darlene Clark Hine are well-known women's historians as well as rising scholars. Highly recommended for all academic libraries.- Jenny Presnell, Miami Univ. Libs., Oxford, OhioCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.